

crook. Formerly Congressman NEWT GINGRICH had alternatively referred to former Speaker Tom Foley, former Speaker Jim Wright, and America's beloved Speaker Tip O'Neil as traitors, thugs.

Jim Wright was asked for a response to the current Speaker's most recent attack and, although I do not have time in this 1 minute to read former Speaker Wright's account, I will herein place it in the RECORD and would read the first sentence which said, "It would demean the office of the Speaker and the institution of Congress itself for me to respond in kind to Mr. GINGRICH, and I shall not do so."

Mr. Speaker, the remainder of former Speaker Wright's speech is calm and measured, and I place it in the RECORD so my colleagues may see it:

STATEMENT OF JIM WRIGHT

It would demean the office of the Speaker and the institution of Congress itself for me to respond in kind to Mr. Gingrich, and I shall not do so. It is not for me to call him ugly names or attribute dishonesty to his business transactions. I guess I'm just not a piglet who likes to wallow in the mud.

So far as my personal integrity is concerned, it needs no defending from remarks by Mr. Gingrich who seems to devote a great portion of his career to trying to malign other people. That's not my style, and I like to think my 72 years of living and serving speak for themselves.

When I resigned from the Speakership in 1989, I expressly offered up my job "as a propitiation for this season of ill will," thus hoping to help Congress move forward without the distractions of the bitter name calling and "mindless cannibalism" which had characterized a series of deliberate personal attacks that I regarded as unworthy and most people realized were untrue.

I am saddened by the lack of dignity and civility which any Speaker must endeavor by example to instill.

SUPPORT THE UNFUNDED
MANDATES REFORM ACT

(Mr. BURR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURR. Mr. Speaker, today we will continue consideration of H.R. 5, the Unfunded Mandate Reform Act. I am pleased to be a cosponsor of this legislation that is embodied in the Republican Contract with America.

I have received letters from the U.S. Conference of Mayors, the National Conference of State Legislators, as well as the Democratic Governor of my home State, North Carolina, the Honorable Jim Hunt, all expressing strong support for this legislation. Governor Hunt articulated the problem well when he said, "While these mandates may reflect well-intentioned policy goals, they often imposed substantial costs and regulatory burdens on the States that deny them the right and responsibility to set the priorities that best meet the needs of our citizens."

For too many years we in Congress have made laws that we did not hold ourselves accountable to and then mandated to both the State and local

governments, as well as the private sector, that they not only abide by the laws, but also come up with the money to pay for them.

UNFUNDED MANDATES DEVASTATING
TO RURAL COMMUNITIES

(Mr. CAMP asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise to discuss how unfunded mandates are particularly devastating to rural communities throughout the country. In Michigan, for example, the estimated costs for fiscal year 1994 as a result of 12 major unfunded mandates was nearly \$400 million.

For example, municipal water systems in my district are required by the EPA to follow the same drinking water tests as Hawaii to monitor for a herbicide used on pineapples, which are grown only in Hawaii. Municipal water systems in Michigan are not only required to report these chemicals not found in the water supply, but they have to pay for it as well. This is wrong.

This example is just one of hundreds of costly, unnecessary, unfunded Federal mandates that leave Washington and fall into our backyards at home.

If there is one theme, one goal of the 104th Congress, it must be to become more accountable. No longer should we be able to pass legislation, pat ourselves on the backs, and pretend it did not cost the taxpayers a dime. The reality is that we leave it to our States and our communities to shoulder the burden and those days must end.

□ 1430

IN SUPPORT OF THE BALANCED
BUDGET AMENDMENT

(Mr. NEUMANN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. NEUMANN. Mr. Speaker, this new Congress is working hard to fulfill its promises to the American people. The most significant change this Congress must make will be done through passage of the balanced budget amendment with its three-fifths tax provision. Right now, every American's share of the national debt is over \$18,500—for my family of five that's \$92,500. Today, the deficit stands at \$176 billion. That is about \$700 for every man, woman, and child in this country. Something must be done to balance the budget. This Congress needs to act now by passing the balanced budget amendment.

The Barton amendment will ensure that the Federal Government cannot spend more than it takes in, and Congress cannot add to the Federal debt unless approved by a three-fifths majority vote of Congress. We need the discipline of a balanced budget amend-

ment to completely change the spending culture of Washington.

I urge my colleagues to pass the balanced budget amendment, not for ourselves, but for the future of our children and grandchildren.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Edwin Thomas, one of his secretaries.

BALANCING THE BUDGET

(Mr. WELLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the balanced budget amendment that this body will soon consider. The American taxpayers demand it. It is our duty to pass the balanced budget amendment and answer their outcry.

Mr. Speaker, if we pause and listen carefully, we can hear the giant sucking sound of the special interests draining the American people's money from Capitol Hill. I say it is time to plug that drain by passing the balanced budget amendment.

No longer should Americans be asked to stand by and watch their tax dollars be wasted away. No longer should hard-working citizens be forced to hand over their paychecks, only to see them thrown into the abyss of big bureaucracy.

I am proud to support this greatly needed balanced budget amendment and urge my colleagues to join me.

RURAL COMMUNITIES AMONG
THOSE TO BENEFIT FROM PAS-
SAGE OF UNFUNDED MANDATES
REFORM ACT

(Mr. LATHAM asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for H.R. 5, the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.

On November 8 the American people sent a clear message that they were tired of having Washington pile ever-increasing mandates on their backs. The types of smaller rural communities such as those I represent bear the heaviest proportional burden of unfunded mandates. Instead of using their tight budgets to improve schools, police forces, or infrastructure, they have increasingly found themselves spending scarce dollars to satisfy Federal rules and regulations that have no positive impact on their communities.

Mr. Speaker, we owe them our prompt support of this important reform bill. I hope we can lay aside the gutting amendments that have been